

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A synergistic composition for skin depigmentation which does not contain a corticosteroid comprising 4-hydroxyanisole and a retinoid in a pharmaceutically acceptable topical vehicle.

2. A composition as defined in claim 1 wherein said retinoid is all-trans retinoic acid.

3. A composition as defined in claim 2 containing from 0.1% to 5% by weight of 4-hydroxyanisole and from 0.001% to 1% by weight of all-trans retinoic acid.

4. A composition as defined in claim 3 containing from 1 to 2% by weight of 4-hydroxyanisole and from 0.01 to 0.1% by weight of all-trans retinoic acid.

5. A composition as defined in claim 1 wherein said retinoid is (N-acetyl-4-aminophenyl) retinoate.

6. A composition as defined in claim 5 containing from 0.1% to 5% by weight of 4-hydroxyanisole and from 0.001% to 1% by weight of (N-acetyl-4-aminophenyl) retinoate.

7. A composition as defined in claim 6 containing from 1 to 2% by weight of 4-hydroxyanisole and from 0.01 to 0.1% by weight of (N-acetyl-4-aminophenyl) retinoate.

8. A composition as defined in claim 1 wherein said retinoid is 11-cis,13-cis-12-hydroxymethyl retinoic acid  $\delta$ -lactone.

9. A composition as defined in claim 8 containing from 0.1% to 5% by weight of 4-hydroxyanisole and from 0.001% to 1% by weight of 11-cis,13-cis-12-hydroxymethyl retinoic acid  $\delta$ -lactone.

9. 10. A composition as defined in claim 8 containing from 1 to 2% by weight of 4-hydroxyanisole and from 0.01 to 0.1% by weight of 11-cis,13-cis-12-hydroxymethyl retinoic acid  $\delta$ -lactone.

11. A method for skin depigmentation which comprises topically applying to the skin a synergistic composition which does not contain a corticosteroid comprising 4-hydroxyanisole and a retinoid in a pharmaceutically acceptable topical vehicle.

11. 11. A method as defined in claim 11 wherein said retinoid is all-trans retinoic acid.

13. 13. A method as defined in claim 12 wherein said composition contains from 0.1% to 5% by weight of 4-hydroxyanisole and from 0.001% to 1% by weight of all-trans retinoic acid.

12. 12. A method as defined in claim 13 containing from 1 to 2% by weight of 4-hydroxyanisole and from 0.01% to 0.1% by weight of all-trans retinoic acid.

13. 13. A method as defined in claim 11 wherein said retinoid is (N-acetyl-4-aminophenyl) retinoate.

14. 14. A method as defined in claim 13 wherein said composition contains from 0.1% to 5% by weight of 4-hydroxyanisole and from 0.001% to 1% by weight of (N-acetyl-4-aminophenyl) retinoate.

15. 15. A method as defined in claim 14 containing from 1 to 2% by weight of 4-hydroxyanisole and from 0.01% to 0.1% by weight of (N-acetyl-4-aminophenyl) retinoate.

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60 16 ~~18~~. A method as defined in claim ~~18~~<sup>10</sup> wherein said retinoid is 11-cis,13-cis-12-hydroxymethyl retinoic acid  $\delta$ -lactone.

17 ~~18~~. A method as defined in claim ~~18~~<sup>16</sup> wherein said composition contains from 0.1% to 5% by weight of 4-hydroxyanisole and from 0.001% to 1% by weight of 11-cis,13-cis-12-hydroxymethyl retinoic acid  $\delta$ -lactone.

67 18 ~~20~~. A method as defined in claim ~~20~~<sup>17</sup> containing from 1 to 2% by weight of 4-hydroxyanisole and from 0.01% to 0.1% by weight of 11-cis,13-cis-12-hydroxymethyl retinoic acid  $\delta$ -lactone.

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